

 SOLUTIONS DELIVERED		APPLICATION INVESTIGATION: <i>Project Description:</i> Graffiti Removal <i>Customer:</i> Transurban <i>Location:</i> Melbourne <i>Date:</i> June 2018 <i>Product:</i> X-Restore
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PROJECT DETAILS

Project Overview Transurban have a significant number of assets that are the target of Graffiti Artists that result in cleaning costs in excess of \$600k annually. The current graffiti coatings on the market provide at best 8 washes (graffiti removal) before there is a requirement to recoat. The objective of this investigation was to determine how x-Restore would perform against the leading graffiti products in the market.

It was also an objective of this study to assess the performance of the recommended graffiti removal products on the market.

Customer Contact Simon Warne
Maintenance Manager
+61 3 8656 8424

PRODUCT DETAILS

Product Applied X-RESTORE Oxidized Metal

Features and Benefits Applying X-Restore will provide:

- UV stabilisation
- Corrosion protection
- Anti-Graffiti coating
- Resistance to salt and bird faeces
- Reduce surface deposits
- Increase the sign life
- A flexible tough surface improving overall sign appearance
- No reduction in reflectivity

Application X-Restore was applied to a 1.6mm mild steel metal sheet

Test Method There were 2 approaches to assessing the performance of the product:

1. The sheet was divided into 3 panels and x-Restore was applied to the bare metal. The surface was allowed to cure and then a yellow spray paint was applied to mimic graffiti. In each of the 3 panels, a different removal product was applied:
 - a. Worlds best graffiti remover (a citric based product)
 - b. Yuk Off (a Selleys product – this was a very aggressive chemical)
 - c. Thinners (standard off the shelf thinners used for paint applications)
2. The sheet was coated with a standard white enamel acrylic spray paint and allowed to set. It was then coated with one heavy coat of x-Restore and allowed to cure. Each of the graffiti removal products were applied to the surface in successive applications to determine how many times it would take to break through the coating.

Note: Transurban currently use Worlds Best Graffiti removal product.



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Prior to Graffiti removal product being applied



After Graffiti removal product was applied



Prior to Graffiti removal product being applied



After Graffiti removal product (World's Best) was applied





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Results All tree graffiti removal products performed to expectation. It should be noted that the application of thinners required less effort for the removal of the paint than the other 2 products. After each product had been applied, the surface was inspected to ensure it remained in the same condition and had not become soft and tacky. In all 3 applications, the integrity of the x-Restore had been maintained.

The Worlds Best graffiti remover was able to be applied to the x-Restore 18 times before breaking through the coating and impacting the paint underneath.

The test was conducted also with the other two products with the following results:

- Yuk Off – 12 washes
- Thinners – 24 washes

Yuk Off was far more aggressive and required additional protective PPE to avoid personal injury. Thinners was the surprising result, with the added benefit that the paint required less effort to remove. However, it does not have the same environmental advantages as World's Best remover, which is a citric based product.

Conclusion Using the current Tansurban approved and preferred graffiti remove ^{World's Best} x-Restore provided an additional 10 washes or an increase of 125%. This could be improved by 200%, if Thinners proved to be an appropriate risk appropriate removal product.

Comments x-Restore appears to provide a more superior graffiti coating that is capable of providing UV protection and does not impact sign reflectivity based on other trials conducted. This will reduce the cost of graffiti product application costs by 50%, increase the sign life by an estimated 100%. The overall benefit is a significant costs saving and asset life.